



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## **MINUTES OF STATE WATER PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

**C. L. "Butch" Otter**  
Governor

**Jerry R. Rigby**  
Chairman  
Rexburg  
At Large

**Terry T. Uhling**  
Vice Chairman  
Boise  
District 2

**Bob Graham**  
Secretary  
Bonners Ferry  
At Large

**Charles "Chuck"  
Cuddy**  
Orofino  
District 1

**Leonard Beck**  
Burley  
District 3

**L. Claude Storer**  
Idaho Falls  
District 4

**Gary M.  
Chamberlain**  
Challis  
At Large

**Lawrence "Vic"  
Armacost**  
New Meadows  
At Large

**Idaho Department of Water Resources**  
Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho  
November 2, 2007

The Chairman of the committee, Gary Chamberlain, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Board members present were Vic Armacost and Leonard Beck.

Staff members present were Hal Anderson, Administrator of Planning and Technical Division; Brian Patton, Bureau Chief of Planning Section; Helen Harrington, Planning Section Manager; Sandra Thiel, Planner, and Patsy McGourty, Administrative Assistant.

Guests in attendance were:

David Blew, Idaho Power Co.                      Shelley Davis, Barker Rosholt  
Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Ground Water Users

Chairman Chamberlain turned the meeting over to Helen Harrington.

### **Agenda Item No. 1, Review of Previous Meeting**

Ms. Harrington discussed coordinating the State Water Plan revision with the SRBA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan process that is due for presentation to the Legislature by 2009. She asked the committee to consider a timeframe for completion of the State Water Plan process. The committee chose to have no completion date right now, but just continue the process.

### **Agenda Item No. 2. Review of Public Information Processes**

Ms. Harrington presented a draft news release and letter to interest groups for the committee's consideration. Climate variability and global warming adapting mechanisms wording was added. Ms. Harrington noted that the Board can make recommendations in the State Water Plan. She stated

that staff would begin building a mailing list as soon as possible for the letter. She also told committee members that the Board Meetings and Minutes web page now contains State Water Plan meetings and minutes.

### **Agenda Item No. 3, Overview of Revision Process**

Ms. Harrington presented lists of many changes that have occurred since the plan was last written in 1996. In 2004, several changes were suggested, but the effort was dropped due to other priorities. The committee and staff had copies of the current plan, suggested changes in 2004 and other revisions that were up for discussion. Ms. Harrington asked the committee to consider the policies today. Committee members decided on category name changes, some changes in order of presentation in the plan. They also discussed setting out recommendations in a separate section for the new revision.

The committee discussed the use of the word “unappropriated” in the plan and the statute. Staff will present this issue to the Natural Resources Legislative Committee at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Anderson read from Idaho Code 1734(a)(1) that was written in the 1970’s. Ms. Davis from Barker Rosholt discussed the conflict with water rights as private property rights. Mr. Tominaga suggested using the word public. There was further discussion about the appropriate wording and the Board’s authority. Ms. Davis suggested that perhaps the Board’s authority should be restated by the Legislature.

At 11:45 a.m. the committee took a lunch break.

Committee and staff made various word changes to the Idaho Water Resource Board Programs and Duties section of the plan. They discussed the state code and legislative directives for the foundation and implementation of the plan. Staff explained to the committee how the planning process recognizes the connection between surface and ground water and includes conjunctive management issues.

The committee then discussed water management issues. Mr. Anderson pointed out that the plan does not mention measurement of demand and that is very important. The SRBA CAMP process is all about balancing supply and demand. The committee then discussed the meaning of water resources and whether that includes water and water rights use or is it just about availability. The committee decided to include water supply, use and demand in the plan and make it consistent throughout the document.

Under Optimum Use a paragraph entitled Local Natural Flow Rental Pool for the Lemhi River was discussed. The committee asked if a policy would be needed for the Wood River since different issues were being addressed there. Staff agreed to work on that for the next meeting.

The committee then discussed state sovereignty. Mr. Anderson noted that new issues were developing with proposed EPA definitions of waters that are to be regulated for water quality under the Clean Water Act and that the plan may need to address this issue.

**Agenda Item No. 4, Next Meeting**

The SWP Sub-Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m. on November 28<sup>th</sup> after the general Board Meeting.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

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Patsy McGourty  
Administrative Assistant II